

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1) a method for splinting a rib injury comprising the steps of:
 - a) attaching a pair of anchor strips which have a plurality of fasteners attached to one side of said strips, more or less vertically, to the surface of the skin of a chest cavity with an adhesive, said strips being more or less equidistantly displaced from a rib injury, in a manner to allow at least one elastomeric strap with at least two fastener receivers to be positioned across the injury and said fastener receiver to be coupled to said fasteners;
 - b) positioning at least one elastomeric strap with said fastener receivers across the injury, and stretching said at least one strap so as to produce an initial tension in said at least one elastomeric strap, and
 - c) coupling said fasteners to said at least two fastener receivers which are attached to said at least one elastomeric strap, thereby providing a stabilizing force to said injury, and
 - d) adjusting periodically the tension of said at least one elastomeric strap to maintain sufficient tension to provide patient comfort.
- 2) The method of claim 1 wherein said fasteners comprise a plurality of hooked protrusions.
- 3) The method of claim 2 wherein said fastener receivers comprise pile pads.
- 4) The method of claim 1 wherein said fasteners comprise buttons and said fastener receivers comprise button holes.

- 5) The method of claim 1 wherein the fasteners and fastener receivers comprise snaps.
- 6) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of placing a pad between said at least one elastomeric strap and the chest wall.
- 7) The method of claim 6 wherein said pad is a heated compress;
- 8) The method of claim 6 wherein said pad is a cooled compress;
- 9) The method of claim 6 wherein said pad is connected to a cold therapy machine.
- 10) The method of claim 1 wherein said anchor strips comprise a plurality of elongated, laterally and medially extending portions.
- 11) The method of claim 6 wherein said anchor strips comprise a plurality of elongated, laterally and medially extending portions.